



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/550,386	06/21/2006	Marcus Hartvigsson	ABE-38790	1349
116 7590 07/13/2009 PEARNE & GORDON LLP 1801 EAST 9TH STREET SUITE 1200 CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108				
EXAMINER				
CORMIER, DAVID G				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1792				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/13/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/550,386

Applicant(s)

HARTVIGSSON, MARCUS

Examiner

DAVID CORMIER

Art Unit

1792

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/21/2005

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Regarding Claim 1, it is unclear if the "first position" and the "second position" necessarily refer to positions of the coarse sieve or if they could possibly refer to some kind of positions of the circulating liquid, or something else entirely.
4. Also regarding Claim 1, it is unclear exactly where liquid is flowing when it flows "outside said collecting part." It is unclear if liquid is literally flowing along the exterior surface that defines the outside of the collecting part or if the liquid is flowing around, such as in bypassing, the collecting part.
5. Regarding Claim 3, the phrase "cup shaped" is indefinite because it is unclear exactly what it means for something to be cup shaped.
6. Claim 6 recites the limitation "the program control" in lines 2 and 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
7. Regarding Claim 10, the phrase "so called wax actuator" is indefinite because it is unclear if a wax actuator is being claimed or if something like a wax actuator is being claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Payzant (US 5,937,879).

10. Regarding Claim 1, Payzant discloses a filter system for a household dishwasher comprising a wash space (24) and a liquid circuit that comprises a coarse sieve (144) and one or several fine filters (138), the coarse sieve being movable between at least two positions with the aid of actuating means, "solenoid" (182; col. 6, lines 5-44) arranged in the dishwasher characterized in that a part of the circulating liquid in the first position flows through a collecting part of the coarse sieve (the "collecting part" could be construed as the upper portion of the perforated part of the coarse sieve) whereas the circulating liquid in the second position flows outside said collecting part (such as when the sieve is raised in the upper position of Figure 6 and liquid flows through the screen, 138, and then in and around the bottom portion, but not through the top portion, of the perforated part of the coarse sieve).

11. Regarding Claim 2, the coarse sieve being in certain positions during certain dishwashing cycles is considered to be intended use of the apparatus, as taught by Payzant, and is not being given patentable weight. The claimed intended use must

result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art.

12. Regarding Claim 3, Payzant discloses that the course sieve has a cylindrical body which is open at the top and closed at the bottom (Figure 6; col. 5, lines 58-61), which is considered to read on "cup shaped."

13. Regarding Claim 4, in the second position (the raised position of Figure 6), the bottom portion of the perforated part of the course sieve is considered to be a "filtering area" (i.e. that portion which is never covered by the collar, 142).

14. Regarding Claim 5, the top portion of the perforated area of the course sieve, such as the top half of the sieve, is considered a collection portion, which has a circular/cylindrical wall and a bottom (the "bottom" of the collection portion could be interpreted to be the plane which separates the "collection portion" from the "filtering area") with the filtering area being an extension of the circular wall part below said bottom.

15. Regarding Claim 6, Payzant discloses electrical circuitry for controlling the machine (Figure 7; col. 7, lines 4 and 5), the circuitry also controls the solenoid, 182 (col. 7, lines 48-53).

16. Regarding Claim 7, Payzant discloses a liquid collecting container divided into a first chamber, "basin" (108) and a second chamber (the bottom portion of the wash space directly at the top of the coarse sieve) divided by the fine filter (138), the first chamber communicating with a circulation pump whereas the second chamber is arranged to receive the coarse sieve.

17. Regarding Claim 9, because no orientation of the dishwasher has been specified, the actuating means, "solenoid" (182) of Payzant could be construed as being below the coarse sieve (see Figure 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

18. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

19. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Payzant (US 5,937,879).

20. Payzant is relied upon as applied to Claim 1. The actuating means of Payzant is disclosed as being above the coarse sieve (Figure 5), not below the coarse sieve as claimed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to move the solenoid to below the coarse sieve because this would simply be a rearrangement of parts, which is considered to be an obvious design choice. See MPEP 2144.04 (VI) (C).

21. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Payzant (US 5,937,879) in view of Taylor, Jr. et al. (US 5,660,195).

22. Payzant is relied as applied to Claim 9. Payzant does not expressly disclose that the actuating means is a wax actuator.

23. Taylor, Jr. discloses a dishwasher which uses a wax actuator (32) for actuating a valve. The wax actuator imparts a gradual movement to an element, such that movement of the element is gentle and quiet (col. 4, lines 6-30).

24. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute the solenoid of Payzant with a wax actuator, such as in Taylor, Jr., which would yield the predictable result of having an effective actuation means that moves gently and quietly.

Conclusion

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID CORMIER whose telephone number is (571) 270-7386. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:30 - 6:00.

26. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

27. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Barr/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 1792

/DGC/
David Cormier
07/09/2009